

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Machida.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Machida in view of Shimokawa and Tamari.

Changes in the Claims:

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

Claims 4-7, and 9-12 have been amended in this application to depend from allowable claim 3. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a) – claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Machida.

The rejection of claims 1 and 2 is now moot because claims 1 and 2 have been canceled.

Claims 4-6, 8-12 now depend from allowed claim 3. The base claim being allowable, the dependent claims must also be allowable.

Thus, Applicant submits that claims 4-6, 8-12 recite novel subject matter which distinguishes over Machida.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a) – claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-12

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Machida in view of Shimokawa and Tamari.

Claim 7 now depends from allowed claim 3. The base claim being allowable, the dependent claim must also be allowable.

Thus, Applicant submits that claim 3 recites novel subject matter which distinguishes over Machida in view of Shimokawa and Tamari.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, applicants submit that the amended claims are now in proper form, and that the amended claims all define patentable subject matter over the prior art. Therefore, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Request for allowance

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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